STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD

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No. EIB 16-03(R)

New Mexico's State Implementation Plan

IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO:

Air Quality Bureau, Environmental Protection Division of the New Mexico Environment Department,

Petitioner.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 9th day of September, 2016, the above-entitled matter came on for hearing and deliberations before the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board, taken at the State Capitol Building, Room 307, Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the hour of 9:11 a.m.

KATHY TOWNSEND COURT REPORTERS

APPEARANCES 1 2 For the Environmental Improvement Board: 3 4 MATTHEW HOLT JOHN MICHAEL VOLKERDING TIMOTHY L. MORROW 5 CHRISTOPHER TIMM (by telephone) 6 For the Air Quality Bureau, Environmental Protection 7 Division of the New Mexico Environment Department: 8 CHRISTOPHER N. ATENCIO Assistant General Counsel 9 Office of General Counsel New Mexico Environment Department 10 121 Tijeras Avenue, Northeast Suite 1000 11 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102-3400 (505) 222-9554 12 christopher.atencio@state.nm.us 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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Proposed Revisions (May 25, 2016)

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MR. HOLT: Good morning.

I call this meeting to order.

 $\ensuremath{\text{I've}}$ been designated by the EIB to act as the Hearing Officer in this matter.

This hearing is being held to consider the proposed changes to the New Mexico State Implementation Plan. The rulemaking petition was filed by the Environmental Department and docketed as EIB 16-03(R).

Chairman Volkerding adopted a procedural order providing that the Board's rulemaking procedures set out in 20.1.1 NMAC will be used in this matter, although no proposed regulatory change. We have Judge -- Judge Volkerding -- Chairman Volkerding has decided the process is similar enough to provide a fair and impartial proceeding.

Pursuant to these procedures, I will conduct the hearing so as to provide a reasonable opportunity for all persons to be heard without making this hearing unreasonably lengthy.

The Rules of Civil Procedure and the technical Rules of Evidence will not apply. I'm allowed to make whatever orders are necessary to preserve decorum.

All testimony will be taken under oath, and all persons giving testimony will be subject to cross-examination by any other person in attendance on

the subject matter of their testimony and on matters affecting their credibility. I will limit cross-examination as necessary to avoid harassment, intimidation or repetition.

This hearing is being recorded and transcribed by Cheryl Arreguin of Kathy Townsend Court Reporters, and you may obtain a copy of the transcript directly from the court reporter. It will also eventually become a public record, viewable in the office of the Board administrator.

If you have not signed in, please do so, regardless of whether you wish to present testimony.

If you have a phone or pager with you, please silence it now.

Members of the Board, the petition is -- the file contains the petition for hearing, the Department's notice of intent to present technical testimony and written support for NMED's AQB's approach.

No other parties have filed motions.

There will, of course, be an opportunity for comments by members of the public, and if any members of the public intend to comment, please sign in on the register so the amount of time needed can be calculated and we can schedule our time accordingly.

Mr. Atencio, Mr. Knight, please make your

appearances and introduce your witnesses.

MR. ATENCIO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Hearing Officer Holt.

Andrew Knight could not be here today. My name is Chris Atencio. I'm here representing the New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau. With me are Mr. Robert Spillers with the Bureau and Ms. Rita Bates.

And would you like me to introduce our panel witnesses now or --

MR. HOLT: Yes.

Before you do, if I can remind you, we have somebody participating by phone, and we do not have a good system set up. Can you speak as loud as you reasonably can under the circumstances for the entire proceedings?

MR. ATENCIO: Yes. I will -- I will speak much more loudly.

MR. HOLT: Thank you.

MR. ATENCIO: And also here today, Ms. Renee Held, also with the Bureau, and -- just double-check -- if necessary, we also have Mr. Ralph Gruebel from the compliance and enforcement section of the Bureau, if there are any questions that you may have that he might be more able to answer.

MR. HOLT: Do you have an opening statement?

MR. ATENCIO: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Hearing

Officer.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, as I said, my name is Chris Atencio. I am assistant general counsel with New Mexico Environment Department.

This matter comes before you today because of a SIP call issued by the EPA regarding affirmative defenses for startups, shutdowns, malfunctions and emergencies. The effective provisions are located in 20.2.7 of the NMAC. As alluded to earlier in discussing the procedural order, this proposal is a proposed SIP revision and not a change to the regulations themselves.

You will hear testimony from Mr. Spillers to that effect, as to the reasons supporting that -- the proposal today. And because of that, there are -- the notice requirements are as noted in the procedural order slightly different than a normal rulemaking.

As you are probably well aware, the Clean Air Act requires a public notice and a hearing opportunity. In this circumstance, though, because this is a rulemaking, the Department proposed and the procedural order noted that the publication in the New Mexico Register and the normal time frame for a rulemaking notice did not -- were not applicable in this situation.

So notice was handled on a normal open meeting light schedule.

This morning the Department intends to call Mr. Spillers to provide technical testimony regarding the Department's proposal to remove the cited sections of the regulations from the New Mexico SIP while leaving them in place as state-only regulations. The Department intends to provide its other witnesses as technical witnesses available to answer any questions that you or members of the public may have.

With that, I have no -- that concludes my opening statement.

And if there's nothing else, may I call Mr. Spillers to begin his testimony?

MR. HOLT: Absolutely.

If you'd have the witnesses sworn in, please.

THE REPORTER: I'll swear in all the witnesses at the same time.

ROBERT SPILLERS, RITA BATES, 1 RENEE HELD and RALPH GRUEBEL 2 3 having been first duly sworn or affirmed, were examined and testified as follows: 4 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION OF ROBERT SPILLERS BY MR. ATENCIO: 6 7 Q. Please state your name for the record. 8 Robert Spillers, S-P-I-L-E-R-S. Α. 9 Q. What is your employment position? 10 Α. I am an environmental analyst in the Control 11 Strategies Section of the Air Quality Bureau. 12 0. Mr. Spillers, how long have you held this 13 position? 14 Α. I've been with Control Strategies Section 15 since September of 2005, approximately 11 years. 16 Q. And what is your educational background? 17 I hold a bachelor of science degree in environmental science and management from New Mexico 18 19 Highlands University. Is what has been marked as NMED Exhibit 4 an 20 Ο. 21 accurate copy of your resume? 22 Α. Yes. 23 0. What is the purpose of your testimony today? 24 Hearing Officer Holt and members of the Board, Α. 25 I am here to request approval of the New Mexico

Environment Department's proposed revisions to the State

Implementation Plan, or SIP, regarding 20.2.7 NMAC,

Excess Emissions.

A copy of the rule with the proposed revisions is attached to the notice of intent as NMED Exhibit 5.

- Q. Did you prepare and prefile written technical testimony providing the background and rationale for these proposed SIP revisions?
 - A. Yes, in NMED Exhibit 6.

- Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to that written testimony that you would like to make?
- A. Yes. In NMED Exhibit 6 on page 10, line 16 should read "Section 6 subsection B."

Also on page 10, a fourth bullet should be added under line 18 to read "Section 116."

In the same exhibit on line 13, line -- on page 13 -- I'm sorry -- on page 13, line 8, the date should be July 10th, 2016.

And we received the original affidavit of publishing -- publication from the English language public notice from the Albuquerque Journal and provided copies of it to the Board's administrator for your notebooks.

MR. ATENCIO: Mr. Holt, members of the Board,
I believe we handed those to Pam, and she can pass those

out at this time.

- Q. With those changes, do you adopt your written testimony as your testimony under oath here today?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. In general terms, please describe the purpose of the proposed SIP revisions to 20.2.7 NMAC, Excess Emissions.
- A. The Department is here today to request the Board's approval of the proposed SIP revisions regarding 20.2.7 NMAC, Excess Emissions, which I'll refer to as Part 7.

A markup of the nonregulatory provisions to Part 7 can be found in NMED Exhibit 5.

The SIP revisions entail the removal of certain SIP -- certain sections of Part 7 from the SIP, leaving those sections as state-only provisions. These revisions are in response to the final action by the EPA published in the Federal Register June 12th, 2015, presented as NMED Exhibit 14.

In the final action, or SIP call, EPA issued a finding that certain SIP provisions for New Mexico as they pertain to Part 7 were substantially inadequate to meet the Clean Air Act requirements. This SIP call was EPA's response to a petition filed by the Sierra Club that concerned how provisions in the EPA-approved SIP

for New Mexico treats excess emissions during startup, shutdown, malfunction and/or maintenance events. I will refer to these as SSMs.

EPA also clarified its reinterpretation of the Clean Air Act requirements with respect to treatment in SIPs of excess emissions that occur during periods of SSM events.

The final action became effective on May 22nd, 2015. The Clean Air Act requires the state to submit a corrected SIP within 18 months of the effective date of the SIP call. The state has until November 22nd, 2016, to submit its corrected SIP revisions.

In May of 2013, the Department submitted comments strongly disagreeing with the EPA's proposed findings of substantial inadequacy.

The Department's comments can be found in NMED Exhibit 11.

The Department's letter reiterated during
the -- reiterating that during the development of Part 7
the Department worked closely with EPA Region 6 and as a
result Part 7 mirrored the 1999 guidance. Along with
the comment letter, the Department submitted
interpretive letter to EPA Region 6 that detailed how
Part 7 conformed to the 1999 policy and the Clean Air
Act.

The interpretive letter can be found in NMED Exhibit 12.

In the final SIP call, the EPA granted the petitioner's objection to the three provisions of the New Mexico SIP that provide affirmative defenses for excess emissions that occur -- that occur during -- and you can find this again in NMED Exhibit 5 -- malfunctions in Section 111 of Part 7, startup and shutdown in Section 112 of Part 7, and emergencies in Section 113 of Part 7.

In the SIP call the EPA determined that these three provisions of the SIP were inadequate to meet the Clean Air Act.

The EPA also addressed a 2014 court decision finding that the EPA exceeded their statutory authority with respect to monetary penalties for private civil suits by allowing affirmative defenses in an EPA rule regarding Portland cement plants.

The court's decision can be found in NMED Exhibit 13.

The EPA believed that the reasoning in the court case indicates that the states have no authority in SIP provisions to alter the jurisdiction of federal courts to assess penalties for violations of the Clean Air Act requirements through affirmative defense

provisions.

- Q. Mr. Spillers, could you please provide a brief definition of affirmative defenses?
- A. An affirmative defense allows a facility to claim a defense from civil penalties for excess emissions of air pollutants. The Air Quality Bureau reviews information provided by the facility to determine if the excess emission meets the criteria outlined in Part 7.

If so, the Bureau may approve affirmative defense -- affirmative defense and will not assess a penalty, though excess emissions remain a violation that must be corrected. There are no automatic affirmative defense approvals.

- Q. In general terms, what are the proposed revisions to Part 7?
- A. As previously mentioned, the EPA granted the Sierra Club's petition with respect to Sections 111, 112 and 113 of Part 7. To be federally approvable, the rule must not preclude the federal courts from determining whether a violation has occurred or imposing penalties.

The SSM SIP call allows the state broad discretion concerning how the state can revise its SIP. After a review of comments received, evaluating input received at public meetings and discussion with EPA

Region 6, it was determined that removing Sections 111, 112 and 113 from the SIP would adequately address the SIP call and continue to meet the regulatory needs of the state with respect to excess emissions.

Along with Sections 111, 112 and 113, the following will also be removed from the SIP as they also deal with affirmative defense.

And these can be found in NMED Exhibit 5, also.

Section 6, subsection B; Section 110, subsection B, paragraph 15; Section 115; and Section 116.

Removing all these sections from the SIP but retaining them as state-only provisions will allow the state to maintain the necessary enforcement authority over the permitted facilities without impeding civil or federal actions for violations associated with SSMs.

There will be no changes to the enforcement of Part 7 on the state level.

The draft SIP revisions were sent to EPA for review and comment. On May 25th, 2016 -- which you can find in NMED Exhibit 15 -- EPA Region 6 approved the draft revisions to Part 7, stating "As proposed, we continue to believe that an approach of retaining affirmative defense-related provisions of the Excess

Emissions Rule as a matter of state law, outside of the SIP ('State-only'), would be consistent with Clean Air Act requirements, and consistent with the EPA's guidance in the Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Policy."

Included in the EPA's letter were two specific comments.

The first comment was that the Department should include in the SIP submittal letter a request for EPA's review and approval for the removal of the previously mentioned sections of Part 7 from the SIP as required by the SIP call.

The Department will include a statement to this effect in the SIP submittal letter to EPA Region 6.

A second comment was that, since the Department is proposing to remove the previously mentioned provisions from the SIP, the Department will be required by the Clean Air Act to provide a 110(1) noninterference demonstration.

The Department will provide a demonstration that the revised SIP does not interfere with attainment and maintenance of the standards. The demonstration will rely on the fact that we believe the revisions in this particular action would strengthen the New Mexico SIP by removing the substantially inadequate provisions from the SIP.

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- Q. What happens if the Board does not adopt the proposed revisions?
- A. Should the Board choose not to adopt the proposed revisions and the state fails to submit its corrective SIP revisions by September -- by the November 22nd, 2016, deadline, then the EPA could issue a finding of failure and impose a Federal Implementation Plan within 24 months after the November deadline.

Such a federal plan would likely completely remove affirmative defense in New Mexico. In addition, if the state fails to make the required SIP revisions or EPA disapproves the state plan, then either event can trigger a mandatory 18-month or 24-month sanctions clock under the Clean Air Act Section 179.

- Q. What public notification was given for these proposed revisions?
- A. Prior to drafting revisions to Part 7, the Department held three public information meetings in Roswell, Farmington and Santa Fe. Once the Department drafted and distributed the draft revisions to Part 7, there were three more public comment meetings held in the same locations'.

The Department published the proposed SIP revision hearing notice in English and in Spanish in the Albuquerque Journal on July 10th, 2016.

Proof of publishing is included in NMED Exhibit 16.

- Q. In closing, do you have anything else to add?
- A. It was never the intent of Part 7 to preclude an enforcement action by the federal government or a citizen suit pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act, as clearly stated in 20.2.7.115 NMAC, found in NMED Exhibit 5.

The excess emissions rule essentially affects all regulated sources in the public within the state. Removing these sections from the SIP will allow the state to maintain enforcement over permitted facilities while not impeding civil or federal actions for violations associated with SSMs. There will not be any regulatory change associated with the SIP revisions.

- Q. Will this proposed SIP revision satisfy New Mexico State Statute 74-2-5, pertaining to the duties and powers of this Board?
- A. Yes. In accordance with that section, the proposed SIP revision will not -- will result in no increases in emissions of air pollutants which would interfere with health, welfare, visibility or property, no increase in regulatory burden on facilities or harm to the public interest, and no increase in economic hardship. The proposal will have no effect on small

businesses.

- Q. Has the Department drafted a proposed statement of reasons?
- A. Yes. The proposed statement of reasons is marked as NMED Exhibit 17.
- Q. Mr. Spillers, would you like to make any closing remarks?
- A. The Department respectfully requests that the Board approve the proposed SIP revisions regarding Part 7.

Thank you.

MR. ATENCIO: Mr. Hearing Officer and members of the Board, that concludes the direct questions I have for Mr. Spillers.

At this time I'd like to offer Mr. Spillers and the rest of the Department's witnesses to answer any questions that you may have.

MR. HOLT: Would you like to have the exhibits you tendered here admitted into evidence?

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ ATENCIO: Yes. Thank you for the reminder.

Yes. I'd move NMED Exhibits 1 through 17 into the record.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MR}}\xspace$. HOLT: They will be admitted.

(Exhibits NMED 1 through 17 admitted into

evidence.) 1 EXAMINATION 2 BY THE BOARD: 3 MR. HOLT: Mr. Timm, can you hear me? 4 MR. TIMM: Yes. 5 MR. HOLT: Do you have any questions of this 6 7 witness, sir? MR. TIMM: This is Christopher Timm. 8 Not really, though -- I guess, just one 9 question. 10 Should the -- (inaudible). 11 THE REPORTER: Mr. Timm, you're going to have 12 to repeat, please, and slower and louder. 13 MR. TIMM: Yes, ma'am. 14 I said should it not be approved, do the 15 federal -- do the EPA take over all or part of the 16 state's implementation plan? That was the question. 17 Did you get that this time? 18 THE REPORTER: Yes. Thank you. 19 MR. SPILLERS: The EPA will only take over the 20 associated sections -- the sections associated with this 21 SIP call, which would be anything associated with 22 affirmative defense provisions of the SIP as found in 23 Part 7. 24

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Is that what -- the answer you're looking for?

1	I couldn't totally understand you.
2	MR. TIMM: I'm sorry. I missed that.
3	Was that a question to me?
4	MR. SPILLERS: I was just making sure I
5	answered your question correctly.
6	If the if the federal government if the
7	EPA issues a Federal Implementation Plan, it will only
8	be associated with the provisions found in the SIP call,
9	Sections 111 and 112 and 113, that have to do with
10	affirmative defense, not the entire State Implementation
11	Plan.
12	MR. TIMM: Thank you very much. That answered
13	my question.
14	MR. HOLT: Can I fairly summarize your answer
15	by saying if we don't do it, the feds are going to do it
16	for us?
17	MR. SPILLERS: Pretty much.
18	MR. HOLT: Mr. Morrow?
19	MR. MORROW: I guess we have no choice.
20	MR. HOLT: Do you have any questions of the
21	witness?
22	Point taken.
23	MR. MORROW: No, I have no questions.
24	MR. HOLT: Chairman Volkerding.
25	MR. VOLKERDING: I have a couple. I have

maybe -- yeah. I've got a couple.

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Exhibit 6, page 9, paragraph VII (verbatim). And this is just to kind of ferret out a little bit of detail.

MR. SPILLERS: Which line is that?

I'm sorry.

MR. VOLKERDING: Oh. Well, it's the whole paragraph of Regulatory Alternatives.

MR. SPILLERS: Yeah.

MR. VOLKERDING: Basically four alternatives are laid out, and then it says -- then basically what we're here to do is approve approach number two, if I -- if I read that correct.

But there wasn't a whole lot of discussion as to why necessarily that was chosen versus the other three, and since they were laid out there, I was just kind of wanting for the record a little bit of discussion as to why the other ones weren't.

MS. BATES: I can answer that.

MR. VOLKERDING: Okay.

MS. BATES: Chairman Volkerding, members of the Board, Hearing Officer Holt, we evaluated all of these sections.

Under the first approach, we could repeal Part 7 in its entirety and eliminate -- eliminate the

affirmative defenses. I -- that alternative did not appeal to us, for one thing because we think affirmative defenses do provide something that we can use and that sources in the state can use in order to give us a reason for what happened and let us take that into consideration.

The other -- the second approach is that the Department could remove those sections but retain them as state-only, and that's the approach that we took.

The third approach was that we would replace all references to affirmative defenses with provisions that provide an enforcement discretion approach.

Several states are going that route, and they're really having a lot of back and forth with EPA and a lot of internal discussion and a lot of heartburn over how that would actually be worded and how that would work.

And it -- it's a very complex way to do it, and it essentially accomplishes what we're accomplishing here today in a much simpler way.

And the fourth approach, developing alternative emission limitations, that is something that EPA does routinely on different kinds of rules, like Maximum Achievable Control Technology rules, New Source Performance Standards and the like.

I think if we try to do something like that,

it would be kind of difficult to do to develop that for all the different kinds of sources that exist in the state, and there are already a number of those in place, and I'm not sure how we could do that without tripping up over some of the other requirements that already exist.

MR. VOLKERDING: Thank you. That -- perfect. Appreciate that.

So probably -- maybe shouldn't even ask this question. How confident is the Department that the EPA will approve the request, if -- if the Board approves the Department's petition and then the Department submits that to EPA Region 6, I mean, how confident is it that Region 6 will actually go ahead and approve this approach?

MR. SPILLERS: Well, we've sent it in for their review and comment, and they did approve it, and it does follow along with the start -- with the provisions outlined in the SIP call. So we believe that there shouldn't be any reason that they would not approve it.

MR. VOLKERDING: Okay.

Exhibit 16 -- and this is again just kind of for detail for the record. In that there were a couple sign-in sheets that did not have location or dates.

1 Do you happen to know off the top of your 2 heads which -- I can guess. I just didn't want to do 3 that. 4 So like the first one, I'm assuming that was 5 in Santa Fe. 6 MR. SPILLERS: Oh. Yeah. 7 MR. VOLKERDING: Do you happen to know if that 8 was 2015? 2016? 9 MR. SPILLERS: This was in 2015, approximately September, I believe. 10 11 MR. VOLKERDING: Okay. 12 And then a couple pages further there's one on 13 just a piece of paper, and I am assuming that is in 14 Farmington? 15 MR. SPILLERS: Yes. 16 MR. VOLKERDING: And then again 2015 or 2016? 17 Do you happen to know? 18 MR. SPILLERS: Offhand I really don't know --19 MR. VOLKERDING: Okay. 20 MR. SPILLERS: -- which -- if you give me a 21 second, I might be able to figure it out for you. 22 2015. 23 MR. VOLKERDING: Okay. 24 And my last one is in Exhibit 17, the 25 statement of reasons, page 5, paragraph 25. And in your

oral you kind of touched on some of this. I was just hoping to get a little bit more specificity.

It says -- you know, the line in the exhibit says the revisions satisfy the statutory requirements of the Air Quality Control Act, Section 74-2-5(E).

And basically that lists three things that the Board's supposed to consider when making decisions, and I was just hoping to get a little bit more clarity on the three points as to how this meets that.

So the first one would be character and degree of injury to health and welfare for the State of New Mexico.

I guess, how -- how does that meet that requirement if we were to approve this?

MR. SPILLERS: Basically there will be no change in the way the enforcement of Part 7 will be conducted. There's nothing really changing in it.

MR. VOLKERDING: Okay.

MR. SPILLERS: The only difference is that it will be state-enforceable-only versus federally enforceable.

MR. VOLKERDING: Okay.

And then the next one is public interest and social and economic value to the state.

MR. SPILLERS: My answer would have to

probably be the same thing, is that this rule has already been approved, and we've been using this rule for several years now. The repeal was in 2008, revise and repeal, and it continues to meet the same requirements. There will be no change.

MR. VOLKERDING: Last one should be easy, technical practicability of implementing this.

MR. SPILLERS: There will be no change in the enforcement of Part 7 whatsoever.

MR. VOLKERDING: All right. I just kind of wanted to just go through that since that's our -- that's something that we have to address or at least say that we've considered when we make decisions.

So that is all I have.

MR. HOLT: I have a couple questions.

I want to follow up on something that Chairman Volkerding started on. Exhibit 6, page 9 lists the four options that we have, and I want to confirm that what is being proposed here is the second option, which reads "Under another approach, the Department could remove Sections 111, 112, and 113 in their entirety from the SIP but retain them as state-only requirements"; is that correct?

MR. SPILLERS: Yes.

MR. HOLT: How and where are we retaining

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them?

MR. SPILLERS: It's -- basically it's still a state rule. We're not changing any regulatory requirements in Part 7. So it's still going to be in 20.2.7 NMAC, Excess Emissions. It's just that we're taking those particular sections -- 20.2.7 -- Part 7 is part of the SIP -- was adopted as part of the original SIP in New Mexico -- of New Mexico.

And we're only taking those certain portions out that have to deal with parts -- with affirmative defense out of the SIP and retaining them as state-only rules.

MR. HOLT: But when you say you retain them as state-only rules, if we approve this, we're removing 111, 112 and 113, aren't we?

MS. BATES: No. Hearing Officer Holt, this is confusing.

They will only be not federally enforceable.

They will still remain in the rule. They are not recommended to be removed or repealed from the rule.

This is not a rule repeal. It is only a removal from the SIP. It's a revision to the State Implementation Plan.

So the rule will still look the same. We are going to add the bracketed material at the bottom of

each of those sections so that anyone who is reading this rule will know that that is -- those sections are not part of New Mexico's federally enforceable State Implementation Plan, but they still will remain in the rule.

There is no rule revision here, no repeal of those sections. It will -- those sections will only be not enforceable federally.

Now, we've got some other rules that have sections in them that are not federally enforceable and not part of the SIP but that are otherwise SIP rules. For example, we've got a section in 20.2.7.2 NMAC, Construction Permits, about air toxics that are not federally enforceable, they're not part of the SIP.

So this is not an unusual thing for us to do.

It's just they will -- they will continue to exist as a state rule, we will continue to enforce as we have been enforcing, and there will be no change to the rule language; however, EPA will not consider that to be part of New Mexico's federally enforceable State

Implementation Plan.

MR. HOLT: I'm with you.

MS. BATES: Okay.

MR. HOLT: So the Clean Air Act contains provisions in there about things the courts are to look

at in determining whether to issue a civil penalty which doesn't include affirmative defenses but does include other things as justice dictates.

What's the state authority for having a state regulation on this other than the SIP itself?

MS. BATES: We've got a number of state rules that are not part of the State Implementation Plan, and so I guess our authority is really under the Air Quality Control Act to have those rules and plans. They don't necessarily have to be federally required rules and plans.

For example, we've got some language in our state statute, the Air Quality Control Act, about ozone plans for areas that are within 95 percent of the standard. Those are not federal requirements.

So there are a number of things that are allowed by state statute that are not required by the Clean Air Act. And this would be kind of going along that same path of allowing, you know, state rules.

New Mexico is not the same as everywhere else.

No state is. A lot of states have rules that are state-only rules, not federal rules, and probably -
California is probably most notorious for that, because their rules are a lot more stringent than a lot of the federal rules.

This is not a stringency issue. I don't see that as this being that. EPA has no problem with us maintaining this as a state-only requirement. And it just allows us another opportunity for evaluating these.

I want to again direct your attention to Section 115 in the rule, because that does not preclude any court action. It's been in there since the beginning of this rule. This is not new language.

That's why we strongly -- we strongly rejected EPA's SIP call or proposal on this, because we said no, we've never ever -- we've got this already in our rule, we've never said that this could preclude a federal or civil action, and in fact, our rule specifically says that it will not.

So I hope that answers your question.

MR. HOLT: To at least some large measure, this started when the court in the NRDC case -- and perhaps I really need to address this to the lawyer so -- we speak a similar language here.

The question was one of Chevron deference, and the court rejected this bill within Chevron deference with regard to regulations.

Are we going to have the same problem in some court, challenging this regulation with regard to the state statute? Is it within our authority under state

law to adopt this regulation, since we're, obviously, not adopting it under the Clean Air Act?

MR. ATENCIO: Mr. Hearing Officer, members of the Board, there should be no issue with that. The -- while the decision did include discussion on Chevron deference, much of it was in relation to what the court perceived as encroachment by the EPA on the court's jurisdiction in particular to no civil -- excuse me -- third-party civil suits and the court's authority to decide penalties in that case.

There -- there should not be an issue under state statute. And any of those -- any of those actions under the Clean Air Act should also be brought, I believe, in federal court, not -- not state court, if somebody chose to bring a suit under those Clean Air Act provisions.

This -- and I would maybe point your attention to paragraph 24 of Exhibit 17, proposed statement of reasons. In discussions with the EPA Region 6 in whether this would be an approvable approach, this particular language was requested by Region 6 counsel as clarifying and making it explicit and drawing the lines of jurisdiction in this matter, in particular to address the NRDC decision.

MR. HOLT: You are convinced that Section 7

can stand as a regulation of this body as opposed to
merely a SIP of this -- adopted pursuant to the Clean
Air Act?

MR. ATENCIO: Yes, Mr. Hearing Officer,
members of the Board. In effect, this -- in keeping it
as a regulation and not part of the SIP, what the Board

would be doing is having a regulation applicable to the

New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau,

and that is the extent of how far we go. And yes, we

believe it would stand.

MS. BATES: I would like to clarify that we're not removing all of Part 7 from the SIP, only those sections that we've mentioned.

MR. HOLT: I understand. Thank you.

All right. I have no other questions.

Anyone on the Board have other questions?

Does anyone in the public have any questions?

Mr. Atencio, is there anything further from the Department?

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ ATENCIO: If I might just make a brief closing statement.

MR. HOLT: Please.

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MR. ATENCIO: Mr. Hearing Officer, members of the Board, thank you for your time today and to listen to the testimony the Department has provided.

The Department believes that the proposal to 1 keep these affirmative defense provisions as a 2 state-only rule is in the best interest of the state and 3 the program. This proposal as discussed is one of the 4 allowable options the EPA listed in its SIP call, and 5 this proposal has a preliminary support of EPA Region 6. 6 The Department respectfully requests the Board 7 approve this proposal and direct the Department to 8 submit it for approval to EPA. 9 Thank you. 10 MR. HOLT: Thank you. 11 Anything further to include in the record, 12 Mr. Chairman? 13 MR. VOLKERDING: No, other than if there's any 14 other public comment. 15 MR. HOLT: Any other public comment on this 16 matter? 17 Yes, sir. If you could come forward, identify 18 yourself and speak your mind. 19 MIKE BOWEN 20 having been first duly sworn or affirmed, was 21 examined and testified as follows: 22 DIRECT TESTIMONY 23 THE REPORTER: Would you state and spell your 24 name for me. 25

1 MR. BOWEN: My name is Mike Bowen, B-O-W-E-N. I am the executive director of the New Mexico 2 3 Mining Association. 4 And I just wanted to let the Board know, 5 Mr. Chairman, that the Mining Association supports NMED's proposed changes to this SIP -- or State 6 7 Implementation Plan. 8 We feel that -- we had the rule -- or the 9 proposed changes reviewed by our environment committee 10 chairman and our environment committee, and we feel the changes preserve the affirmative defenses that have been 11 12 in place for many years for purposes of state law. 13 We -- the affirmative defenses are very important to our 14 members of the mining industry who strive to comply with 15 air quality laws, regulations and permits. 16 The changes -- we feel the changes adopt an 17 approach that is acceptable to EPA, and this will avoid 18 potential action by EPA that could have unpredictable 19 consequences for our industry. 20 So for those reasons we support the proposed 21 changes. 22 MR. HOLT: Thank you. 23 Does any member of the Board have questions? 24 Anyone from the public have questions for

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Mr. Bowen?

Thank you very much. 1 MR. BOWEN: Thank you. 2 MR. HOLT: Appreciate it. 3 Is there anything further from anyone? 4 This hearing is closed. 5 Mr. Chair, I return it to you. 6 MR. VOLKERDING: Thank you. 7 Do we want to deliberate? 8 Mr. Timm, we'll start with you. As you're 9 coming closer to us, it may be getting weird. 10 Making weird noises. Sorry. I didn't finish 11 that sentence, did I? 12 So, Mr. Timm, do you have any -- any comment 13 you'd like to make? 14 Are you still there? 15 MR. TIMM: I'm sorry. Repeat the question. 16 17 was on mute. MR. VOLKERDING: Oh. I was just wondering if 18 you had any comments that you'd like to make in terms of 19 deliberating on this. 20 MR. TIMM: The only comment is I think -- I 21 appreciate that we had a very thorough briefing about 22 this. I appreciate the support being offered by the --23 you know, by the member at the public hearing that we 24

should pursue.

25

Thank you.

MR. VOLKERDING: Okay.

Any other comments, any other --

MR. MORROW: I appreciate the statement from Mr. Bowen and the other letters that were sent in from the -- that we got from the public. If they have no problem, I have no problem.

MR. VOLKERDING: Mr. Holt?

MR. HOLT: Yeah. I support the ED's proposal here, have no problem removing from the SIP the italicized language and adding in the annotations to make clear the italicized language has been removed from the SIP, it remains part of the state regulation.

MR. VOLKERDING: Okay.

And I -- I support the Department's proposal.

I -- I agree with the Department's exhibits that I -- I somewhat -- and that was kind of the purpose of my question about whether Region 6 will approve this, is just that I somewhat feel that this was not necessarily necessary, that the regulation as written was fairly clear, it did not preempt federal or private parties.

But I -- I do think that it -- it should address the EPA's concerns, and I think the Department has done an outstanding job in laying out the case for -- for their request.

So is there a -- is there a motion? 1 MR. HOLT: I will move to approve the request 2 of the ED to remove the italicized language reflected in 3 Exhibit -- New Mexico Environmental Department's 4 Exhibit 5 from the SIP, to retain it as part of the 5 regulation and to add the underlying language as 6 annotations to make clear the intent to remove it from 7 the SIP, to leave it in the regulations. 8 MR. MORROW: Okay. I'll second that. 9 MR. VOLKERDING: All right. It is moved and 10 second. 11 Any other -- any other Board comment? 12 If not, all in favor. 13 MR. HOLT: Aye.. 14 MR. MORROW: Aye. 15 MR. VOLKERDING: Aye. 16 MR. TIMM: This is Christopher Timm. 17 18 Aye. MR. VOLKERDING: Okay. Unanimously approved. 19 So the petition is approved. Thank you. 20 On Exhibit 17, I -- although it was entered 21 into the record, the Board may want to consider its own 22 order for statement of reasons and just flush out a few 23 additional details, primarily focusing -- at least my 24 issues primarily focusing on the Air Quality Control Act 25

1 and the three paragraphs that I discussed during oral. 2 And then, Member Holt, did you have anything 3 else that you had a question on? MR. HOLT: Yeah. There's a few minor matters 4 5 in the statement of reasons that I would like to suggest 6 some changes to. I don't know that we need to debate 7 them. I would be happy to take responsibility for 8 preparing a revised version of this and circulating it. 9 MR. VOLKERDING: That would --10 MR. HOLT: If it meets the Chairman's 11 approval, he could sign it. 12 MR. VOLKERDING: That works for me if that 13 works for the rest of the Board. MR. HOLT: If the Environmental Department 14 15 gave me an electronic copy so I don't have to retype the entire thing, that would be great. 16 17 MR. ATENCIO: Yes, sir. 18 MR. VOLKERDING: Okay. I have managed to 19 misplace my agenda. 20 (Proceedings adjourned at 9:58 a.m.) 21 22 23 24

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    STATE OF NEW MEXICO
                           ) ss.
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    COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
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         I, CHERYL ARREGUIN, the officer before whom the
 6
    foregoing proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that
 7
    the witnesses whose testimony appears in the foregoing
 8
    transcript were duly sworn or affirmed; that I
 9
    personally recorded the testimony by machine shorthand;
10
    that said transcript is a true record of the testimony
11
    given by said witnesses; that I am neither attorney nor
12
    counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the
13
    parties to the action in which this proceeding is taken,
14
    and that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney
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    or counsel employed by the parties hereto or financially
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    interested in the action.
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                               NOTARY PUBLIC
                               CCR License Number: 21
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                               Expires: 12/31/2016
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    My Commission Expires: 12/12/19
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